



**NOAA FISHERIES**

*Sustainable Fisheries West Coast Region*

# **Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species Compliance Guide**

*March 3, 2015*

This guide was developed to provide a plain-language summary of how small businesses can comply with the federal regulations that implement the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP). Because fishery regulations change frequently, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with the current official regulations set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)<sup>1</sup>.

We cite the CFR throughout this document, and provide direct links for reference. All West Coast HMS regulations can be found in Title 50, Part 660, Subpart K. For example, §660.711 refers to section 711 of part 660 of Title 50 of the CFR.

**The regulations in the CFR take precedence if a discrepancy occurs between them and the information in this Guide.**

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<sup>1</sup> [ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b8624f8cd5dd800ab5d9e84c52124c0c&node=pt50.13.660&rgn=div5](http://ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b8624f8cd5dd800ab5d9e84c52124c0c&node=pt50.13.660&rgn=div5)

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## Introduction

### Summary of the HMS FMP Management Measures and Regulations

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) developed the HMS FMP in 2003, and implemented it through regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2004. The regulations identify 11 highly migratory species for management (Table 1), and define legal gear types and methods for harvesting them. The regulations apply to all U.S. vessels that fish for HMS within the West Coast (California, Oregon, Washington) exclusive economic zone (EEZ = 3-200 nautical miles from the coast). The regulations also apply to U.S. vessels that target HMS on the high seas (seaward of the EEZ) and land their fish in California, Oregon or Washington.

**Table 1: HMS management unit species**

Common Name	Species
striped marlin	<i>Kajikia audax</i>
swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>
common thresher shark*	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>
shortfin mako (bonito shark)*	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>
blue shark*	<i>Prionace glauca</i>
North Pacific albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>
yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
bigeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>
skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
Pacific bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>
dorado (mahi mahi, dolphinfish)	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>

\*collectively referred to as HMS sharks in this document

The FMP incorporated existing federal and state regulations for California, Oregon, and Washington, and sets forth additional requirements including:

- Harvest guidelines for common thresher and shortfin mako sharks.
- Definitions of prohibited and protected species.
- Incidental HMS catch allowances for non-HMS gear.
- Requirements for a federal HMS vessel permit.
- Requirements for vessel markings.
- Requirements for logbook reporting and submission.
- Requirements for carrying fishery observers.
- Requirements for minimizing and mitigating bycatch.
- Summary of mandatory time/area closures.

### Overlapping Regulations

In addition to the regulations NMFS issued to implement the FMP, other regulations and policies (state, federal, and international) also govern the fisheries managed under this plan. For example, authorized gear in Washington is more limited than the gear authorized in this FMP. To ensure compliance, fishermen should consult other applicable fisheries regulations. Information regarding related regulations and policies can be found on the NMFS West Coast Region (WCR) website<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> [westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory\\_species/highly\\_migratory\\_species\\_rules\\_req.html](https://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/highly_migratory_species_rules_req.html)

## Gear

### **Q1. What fishing gear is allowed? ([§660.702](#))**

The following gears are authorized for the commercial and recreational harvest of HMS in and beyond the EEZ off the West Coast by vessels landing in West Coast ports.

#### **HMS Commercial Gear**

*Harpoon:* fishing gear consisting of a pointed dart or iron attached to the end of a line several hundred feet in length, the other end of which is attached to a flotation device. Harpoon gear is attached to a pole or stick that is propelled only by hand, not mechanically.

*Surface hook and line:* one or more hooks attached to one or more lines (includes troll, rod and reel, handline, albacore jig, live bait, and bait boat; excludes pelagic longline and mousetrap gear<sup>3</sup>). Surface hook and line is always attached to the vessel.

*Drift gillnet:* a panel of netting, a *minimum* of 14 inch (35.56 cm) stretched mesh or greater, suspended vertically in the water by floats along the top and weights along the bottom, which is neither stationary nor anchored to the bottom.

*Purse seine:* An encircling net with floats and weights that is closed by a purse line threaded through rings attached to the bottom of the net (includes encircling net, purse seine, ring net, drum purse seine, lampara net).

*Pelagic longline:* a main line that is horizontally suspended in the water column, which is neither stationary nor anchored, and from which dropper lines with hooks (gangions) are attached. (Specific longline regulations are detailed in Appendix 2).

#### **HMS Recreational Gear**

*Rod and reel (pole and line):* a hand-held (including rod holder) fishing rod with a manually or electrically operated reel attached.

*Spear:* a sharp, pointed, or barbed instrument on a shaft operated manually or shot from a gun or sling.

*Hook & line:* one or more hooks attached to one or more lines (not mousetrap gear).

### **Q2. If I fish with non-HMS gear, can I keep any HMS as incidental catch? ([§660.711](#))**

Yes, incidental commercial landings of HMS are authorized within the limits detailed below for non-HMS gear (e.g. bottom longline, trawl, pot gear). Incidental catch refers to HMS that are unavoidably caught while fishing for other species, or fishing with gear that is unauthorized for HMS harvest. Any HMS caught in exceedance of the limits listed below must be released.

- Drift gillnets with mesh fewer than 14 inches are permitted to land 10 HMS fish, **except** swordfish, which are not permitted to be landed as incidental catch.
- Bottom longline (set line) fishery landings are restricted to 3 HMS sharks or 20% of total landings by weight of HMS sharks, whichever is greater.
- Trawl and pot gear may land either a maximum of 1% of total weight per landing for all HMS sharks combined or 2 HMS sharks, whichever is greater.

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<sup>3</sup> Mousetrap gear means a free-floating set of gear thrown from a vessel, composed of a length of line with a float on one end and one or more hooks or lures on the opposite end.

**Q3. Can I keep HMS caught with a drift gillnet under 14 inches stretched mesh, as permitted by state regulations? ([§660.711](#))**

A drift gillnet vessel with a stretched mesh size fewer than 14 inches may not target HMS. However, an incidental landing of 10 non-swordfish HMS per trip will be allowed.

**Permits and Reporting****Q4. What are the HMS permit requirements? ([§660.707](#))**

U.S. commercial vessels that fish for HMS within the West Coast EEZ, or target HMS on the high seas and land their fish in California, Oregon or Washington, must have an HMS permit that endorses the use of all gear types used by the vessel. A recreational charter vessel must have a HMS permit if that vessel is used to fish for HMS in the U.S. EEZ off the West Coast. As a note: Any U.S. vessels that fish on the high seas must also have a permit issued under the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act; see [50 CFR 300.13](#).

**Q5. Do I need proof of previous fishing effort & landings for an HMS permit? ([§660.707](#))**

No, at this time there are no qualifying criteria, such as a minimum landing amount, to obtain a permit or to endorse specific gear. The HMS permit is in addition to state permit or licensing requirements, or federal permits required under the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act. Persons with permits and gear endorsements are subject to sanctions, including revocation, as provided by [Section 308\(g\) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act](#).

**Q6. How do I renew or apply for a new HMS vessel permit and what is the cost? ([§660.707](#))**

The HMS permit application for renewals and new permits is available online and can either be completed and submitted online<sup>4</sup>, or can be downloaded<sup>5</sup> and mailed. A \$30 processing fee is required, which can also be paid online or mailed. Check, credit, and debit are accepted forms of payment online. Mailed applications and payments (check or money order) should be sent to:

National Marine Fisheries Service  
(Attention: Permits Office)  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA, 90802

**Q7. When will my permit expire? ([§660.707](#))**

Permits are valid for 2 years from date of issuance and expire on the last day of the permit owner's birth month. NMFS will send renewal notices to permit holders approximately 90 days prior to the permit expiration date.

**Q8. How do I display my permit once it has been issued? ([§660.707](#))**

The HMS permit must be onboard the vessel at all times and must be available for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer.

<sup>4</sup> [fisheriespermits.noaa.gov](http://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov) - Online application instructions at:  
[westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery\\_management/hms\\_program/pacifichms\\_online\\_permit\\_instructions.pdf](http://westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/hms_program/pacifichms_online_permit_instructions.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery\\_management/hms\\_program/hms\\_appfill\\_exp2016.pdf](http://westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/hms_program/hms_appfill_exp2016.pdf)

**Q9. What are the HMS FMP reporting requirements? ([§660.708](#))**

Catch, effort, and catch composition data are critical for monitoring HMS fisheries, assessing stock status, and evaluating management effectiveness. All commercial and recreational vessels are required to maintain federal logbooks. Information specified on the logbook forms must be recorded within 24 hours after the completion of each fishing day. Each form must be signed and dated by the fishing vessel operator. Logbooks are on the NMFS WCR website<sup>6</sup>.

**Q10. When do I turn the logbooks in? ([§660.708](#))**

The original logbook form for each day of the fishing trip must be submitted to NMFS or the appropriate state agency within 30 days of each landing or transshipment of HMS.

**Q11. I already keep a logbook; do I need a separate one for the HMS FMP? ([§660.708](#))**

Examples of logbooks that meet the HMS logbook reporting requirement may be found on the NMFS WCR website. Federal and State logbooks currently required under the following authorities satisfy the HMS logbook reporting requirements and duplicate logbooks **will not** be required for vessels that:

- Fish under the authority of the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995 (§300.17).
- Fish tuna under the authority of the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (§300.21).
- Fish under the authority of the regulations for the Fishery Management Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (§660.14).
- Use any logbook required by the fishery management agency of the States of California, Oregon, or Washington. These logbooks, tailored to specific gear, are acceptable.
- Troll for albacore and use a Federal logbook as mandated under the HMS FMP.<sup>7</sup>

Any holder of an HMS permit that does not submit logbooks under any of the above authorities must provide a written request to the NMFS WCR office (see List of Contacts section) for the appropriate logbook. The applicant must provide his or her name and address, the name of the vessel, and the type of fishing gear used.

## Vessel Requirements

**Q12. What are the vessel marking requirements? ([§660.704](#))**

Each HMS permitted commercial fishing vessel must display its official number on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. Markings must be legible and of a color that contrasts with the background. The official number must be affixed to each vessel in block Arabic numerals. Size requirements for numbers are as follows:

- For vessels greater than 25 feet (7.62 m), but equal to or fewer than 65 feet (19.81 m) in length, numbers must be at least 10 inches (25.40 cm) in height.
- For vessels greater than 65 feet (19.81 m) in length, numbers must be at least 18 inches (45.72 cm) in height.

These requirements do **not** apply to recreational charter vessels.

<sup>6</sup> [westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory\\_species/highly\\_migratory\\_species\\_logbooks.html](http://westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/highly_migratory_species_logbooks.html)

<sup>7</sup> Mail completed albacore logbooks to Albacore Logbook Program, SWFSC, 8901 La Jolla Shores Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

**Q13. Am I required to install a vessel monitoring system (VMS) on my boat? ([§660.712](#); [§300.219](#))**

- Vessel owners or operators operating under HMS permits in the longline fishery are required to install, activate, carry, and operate VMS units if requested by NMFS (see Appendix 2).
- U.S. vessels with Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) area endorsements are required to install, activate, carry and VMS units. The VMS units must be on and operating at all times while the vessel is at sea, inside and outside the WCPFC, which includes the EEZ off the U.S. West Coast.
- A final rule, published on February 26, 2015, establishes VMS requirements for the drift gillnet fleet<sup>8</sup>; however, these regulations will not go into effect until the Office of Management and Budget approves associated collection-of-information requirements. NMFS will publish a notice in the Federal Register when the requirements are approved (a minimum of 60 days from date of publication).
- A rule will publish in 2015 and establish additional VMS requirements for fishing vessels that are 24 meters or more in length<sup>9</sup> and used to target and retain tuna and tuna-like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

**Q14. What are the requirements for carrying observers? ([§660.719](#); [§600.746](#))**

With few exceptions, U.S. fishing vessels operating in HMS fisheries (including catcher/processors, at-sea processors, and vessels that embark from Washington, Oregon, or California and land catch in another area) may be required to carry a NMFS-trained observer when directed to do so by NMFS. **If NMFS determines an observer must be on board, the vessel may not engage in the fishery without taking the observer.**

Specifically, vessel owners or operators in the longline fishery are *required* to notify NMFS 24 hours prior to departing on a fishing trip. Vessel owners and operators in the drift gillnet fishery are *required* to notify NMFS 48 hours prior to departing on a fishing trip.<sup>8</sup>

Requirements for any HMS vessel when observers are on board are as follows:

- The vessel must comply with U.S. Coast Guard safety requirements and display a current commercial fishing vessel safety examination decal.
- The vessel owner or operator must also allow an observer to visually inspect any safety or accommodation requirement, if requested by NMFS.
- The permit holder must provide living quarters comparable to crew members as well as the same meals, snacks, and other considerations normally provided to vessel personnel.
- The permit holder, vessel operator, and crew must cooperate with the observer and allow access to VMS, communication, and navigation equipment necessary for observer duties.
- The observer must be notified before commercial fishing operations begin and end.
- The observer, upon their request, must be provided with accurate vessel locations by latitude and longitude or loran coordinates.

<sup>8</sup> [federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/26/2015-03955/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-highly-migratory-fisheries-california-swordfish-drift-gillnet](http://federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/26/2015-03955/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-highly-migratory-fisheries-california-swordfish-drift-gillnet) – contact Amber Rhodes for status updates about this rule (562) 980-3231

<sup>9</sup> [federalregister.gov/articles/2014/02/06/2014-02598/international-fisheries-pacific-tuna-fisheries-establishment-of-tuna-vessel-monitoring-system-in-the-h-10](http://federalregister.gov/articles/2014/02/06/2014-02598/international-fisheries-pacific-tuna-fisheries-establishment-of-tuna-vessel-monitoring-system-in-the-h-10) – contact Rachael Wadsworth for status updates about this rule (562) 980-4036



## Time / Area

### Q15. What is the management area under which these regulations apply? ([§660.703](#))

The HMS fishery management area is as follows:

a) Southern boundary: United States-Mexico International Boundary:

32°35'22" N. lat. 117°27'49" W. long.  
 32°37'37" N. lat. 117°49'31" W. long.  
 31°07'58" N. lat. 118°36'18" W. long.  
 30°32'31" N. lat. 121°51'58" W. long.

b) Northern boundary: United States-Canada Provisional International Boundary:

48°29'37.19" N. lat. 124°43'33.19" W. long.	48°20'16" N. lat. 125°22'48" W. long.
48°30'11" N. lat. 124°47'13" W. long.	48°18'22" N. lat. 125°29'58" W. long.
48°30'22" N. lat. 124°50'21" W. long.	48°11'05" N. lat. 125°53'48" W. long.
48°30'14" N. lat. 124°54'52" W. long.	47°49'15" N. lat. 126°40'57" W. long.
48°29'57" N. lat. 124°59'14" W. long.	47°36'47" N. lat. 127°11'58" W. long.
48°29'44" N. lat. 125°00'06" W. long.	47°22'00" N. lat. 127°41'23" W. long.
48°28'09" N. lat. 125°05'47" W. long.	46°42'05" N. lat. 128°51'56" W. long.
48°27'10" N. lat. 125°08'25" W. long.	46°31'47" N. lat. 129°07'39" W. long.
48°26'47" N. lat. 125°09'12" W. long.	

c) Adjacent waters on the high seas.

### Q16. What is the annual fishing season? ([§660.709](#))

The fishing year for all HMS fisheries will begin at 0801 GMT (0001 local time) on April 1 and terminate at 0800 GMT on March 31 (2400 local time) the following year.

### Q17. What are the specific HMS FMP regulations for area closures? ([§660.713](#); [§229.31](#))

A suite of time-area closures for drift gillnet fishing have been adopted to protect marine mammals and sea turtles in the U.S. EEZ. Mainland area closures off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington for the drift gillnet fishery are listed under [§660.713\(d\)](#). Time-area closures in place to protect sea turtles from potential interactions with drift gillnet gear include:

- a Pacific leatherback conservation area from August 15 through November 15.
- a Pacific loggerhead conservation area from June through August, in years when an El Niño has been forecasted (see Appendix 1).

Additional area restrictions for longline gear are included in Appendix 2.

## Other Species

### Q18. What species are prohibited to retain? ([§660.705](#), [§660.711](#))

Prohibited species (Table 3) must be released immediately if caught, unless there are other exceptions in place in accordance with existing state and federal guidelines. A rule that will outline exceptions to this regulation will publish in 2015<sup>10</sup>.

In addition, U.S. citizens fishing in waters covered under existing HMS FMP regulations are bound by the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2002<sup>11</sup> and Shark Conservation Act of 2010<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> Contact Taylor Debevec for status updates about this rule (562) 980-4066



These Acts prohibit, among other things, any person subject to U.S. jurisdiction from (a) engaging in shark finning, (b) possessing shark fins aboard a U.S. fishing vessel without the corresponding carcass, or (c) landing shark fins without the corresponding carcass.

The Billfish Conservation Act of 2012<sup>13</sup> was signed into law on October 2012 and prohibits the sale, and possession for purposes of sale, of all billfish (excluding swordfish). It also specifies that *recreational* fishermen may possess, but not sell, billfish and are subject to limits imposed by existing state and federal regulations. The U.S. West Coast HMS most commonly affected by this Act is striped marlin. Striped marlins are considered to have greater value as a recreational species rather than a commercial target species and are prohibited to be sold commercially under the HMS FMP.

**Table 2: Prohibited HMS species**

Common Name	Species
	<i>i.e.</i>
Any species of salmon	<i>Onchorhynchus gorboscha</i>
	<i>Onchorhynchus tshawytscha</i>
	<i>Onchorhynchus keta</i>
	<i>Onchorhynchus nerka</i>
	<i>Onchorhynchus kisutch</i>
great white shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>
basking shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>
megamouth shark	<i>Megachasma pelagio</i>
Pacific halibut	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>

**Q19. What are the protected species regulations? (§660.712, .713, .720; 229.31; 223.206)**

Longline and drift gillnet vessels encounter sea turtles and marine mammals during fishing operations. Various federal laws provide protection for marine species inhabiting the waters bound by the HMS FMP, including the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The HMS FMP adopts measures to minimize interactions between HMS fishing gear and protected species and ensure that the fisheries are operating consistent with federal laws. These measures include:

- Time and area closures.
- Gear modifications such as pingers and extenders, as required in the Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan.
- Techniques for the safe handling and release of protected seabirds and sea turtles<sup>14</sup>.
- Operation of VMS units, if required by NMFS.
- A NMFS protected species workshop (longline) and a skipper education workshop (drift gillnet).

<sup>11</sup> [govtrack.us/congress/bills/106/hr5461/text](http://govtrack.us/congress/bills/106/hr5461/text)

<sup>12</sup> [gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ348/pdf/PLAW-111publ348.pdf](http://gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ348/pdf/PLAW-111publ348.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr2706/text](http://govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr2706/text)

<sup>14</sup> For free hard copies of the guides for safe handling and release, contact Lyle Enriquez at (562) 980-4025

## Limits

### Q20. Are there any harvest limits?

The United States has put regulations in place to implement international catch limits for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

- For calendar years 2015 and 2016, a rule to establish U.S. commercial catch limits for Pacific Bluefin tuna will publish in 2015. The rule will state that the U.S. catch limit is 600 metric tons (mt) for both years combined, not to exceed 425 mt in a single year<sup>15</sup>.
- For calendar years 2014, 2015, and 2016, the catch of bigeye tuna by longline vessels over 24 meters in length in the eastern Pacific Ocean is limited to 500 mt/year.

A harvest guideline is a numerical harvest level that is a general objective that, if reached, will initiate a review of the species according to provisions in the HMS FMP and in consideration of Pacific Fishery Management Council recommendations. The HMS FMP final rule establishes harvest guidelines of:

- 340 mt for common thresher sharks.
- 150 mt for shortfin mako sharks.

Because total catches and basic parameters for population dynamics of these shark species are poorly known, they are managed with precautionary harvest guidelines.

### Q21. What are the recreational fishing bag limits? ([§660.721](#))

Commercial passenger fishing vessel operators are responsible for ensuring that the bag limits of this section are not exceeded for each 24-hour period at sea, regardless of the number of trips per day.

- A recreational fisherman may take or retain no more than 25 albacore if fishing north of a line extending west of Point Conception (34°27' N. latitude) to the California-Oregon border (42°00' N. latitude).
- A recreational fisherman may take or retain no more than 10 albacore if fishing south of a line extending west of Point Conception (34°27' N. latitude).
- A rule to establish a new daily bag limit for the recreational harvest of Pacific bluefin tuna will publish in 2015. The rule will establish a 2-fish daily bag limit, with a possession limit of 6 fish<sup>16</sup>. Until the rule is in effect, the daily bag limit is 10 fish.
- If the State of California requires a declaration for a multi-day fishing trip for albacore or bluefin tuna harvested and landed in California, aggregating daily trip limits for multi-day trips are acceptable up to a possession limit.
- Off the California coast, each fisherman aboard a vessel may continue to fish until the combined daily limits of HMS for all anglers has been attained (additional state restrictions on boat limits may apply).

<sup>15</sup> Contact Celia Barroso for status updates about this rule (562) 432-1850

<sup>16</sup> Contact Craig Heberer for status updates about this rule (760) 431-9440 ext. 303

## List of Contacts

### **NMFS West Coast Regional Office**

Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD)

501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4221

Ph: (562) 980-4030

Fax: (562) 980-4047

website: [www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov)

Heidi Taylor, HMS Branch Chief

Ph: (562) 980-4039

email: [Heidi.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Taylor@noaa.gov)

Shannon Penna, HMS Permits Coordinator

Ph: (562) 980-4238

email: [Shannon.Penna@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Penna@noaa.gov)

### **NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office**

Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD)

1845 Wasp Blvd., Building 176, Honolulu, HI 96818

Ph: (808) 725-5000

Fax: (808) 725-5215

website: [www.fpir.noaa.gov](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov)

Bob Harman, Supervisory Fish & Wildlife Administrator

Ph: (808) 725-5170

email: [Bob.Harman@noaa.gov](mailto:Bob.Harman@noaa.gov)

### **NOAA Office of Law Enforcement**

501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4400-A, Long Beach, CA 90802-4221

Ph: (562) 980-4050

Fax: (562) 980-4058

website: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole)

**24-hour toll-free hotline (800) 853-1964**

### **NMFS WCR Field Offices**

Arcata, CA (707) 826-9247

Pacific Grove, CA (831) 647-4220

Vancouver, WA (360) 418-4246

Monterey, CA (831) 647-4203

Santa Rosa, CA (707) 575-6070

San Francisco, CA (415) 561-6628

San Diego, CA (619) 557-5494

Astoria, OR (503) 325-5934

Newport, OR (541) 867-0504

Roseburg, OR (541) 957-3388

Coos Bay, OR (541) 267-0767

Bellingham, WA (360) 676-9268

**Pacific Fishery Management Council**

Mr. Kit Dahl, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR, 97220-1384

Ph: (503) 820-2280  
 Fax: (503) 820-2299  
 Toll Free: (866) 806-7204  
 website: [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Ms. Elizabeth Hellmers, 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

Ph: (858) 334-2813  
 website: [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)  
 Cal-Tip Poaching hotline (1-888-334-2258)

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Ms. Cyreis Schmitt, 2040 SE Marine Science Dr., Newport, OR 97365

Ph: (541) 867-4741  
 Fax: (541) 867-0311  
 website: [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)  
 Wildlife Violations: (1-800-452-7888)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Mr. Kirt Hughes, Region 6 Office, 48A Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563-9618

Ph: (360) 249-1211  
 Fax: (360) 664-0689  
 Website: [www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov)  
 Emergency Hotline (1-800-477-6224)

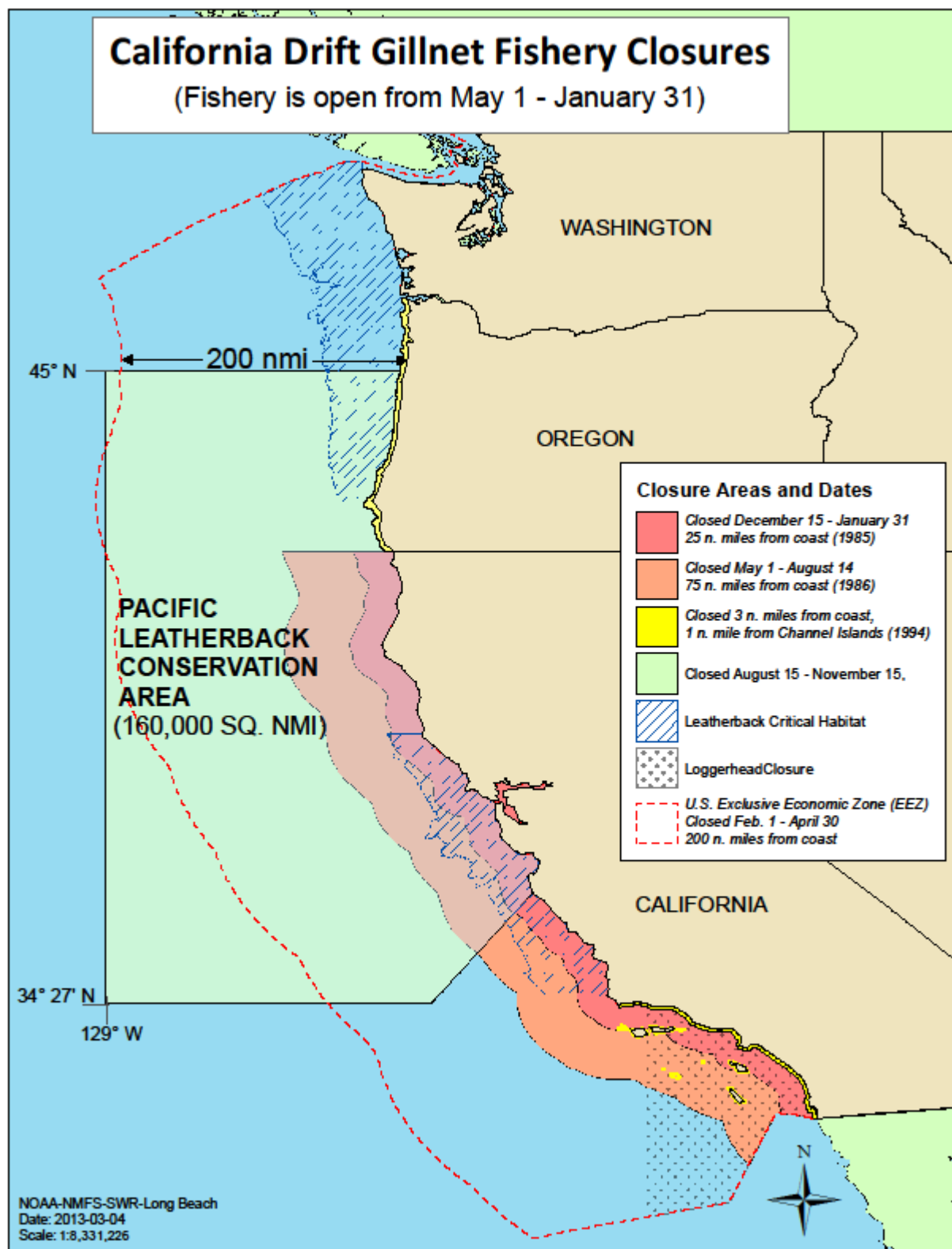
**WCPFC**

Tom Graham (808) 725-5032  
 Kaselehlle Street, PO Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei State, 96941, Federated States of Micronesia  
 Ph: +691 320-1992  
 Fax: +691 320-1108  
 Website: [www.wcpfc.int](http://www.wcpfc.int)

**IATTC**

Heidi Taylor (NMFS contact) (562) 980-4039  
 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4221  
 Ph: (562) 980-4030  
 Fax: (562) 980-4047  
 Website: [iattc.org/HomeENG.htm](http://iattc.org/HomeENG.htm)

## Appendix 1: Map of California Drift Gillnet Fishery Closures



## Appendix 2: Requirements & Restrictions for Vessels Using Longline Gear

### **Observer Requirements** ([§ 660.719](#))

The permit holder must notify the Regional Administrator or designated observer service provider<sup>17</sup> at least 24 hours prior to embarking on a fishing trip. NMFS or the observer service provider will advise the permit holder or the designated agent whether the vessel is assigned an observer for the fishing trip. **The vessel may not engage in the fishery without taking an observer if it has been assigned one.**

Additional observe requirements applicable to all HMS vessels carrying an observer, including longline vessels, are listed under Question 14.

### **Time and Area Restrictions** ([§ 660.712](#))

Owners and operators of vessels registered for use of longline gear may **not**:

- Use either shallow-set or deep-set longline gear to target HMS within the U.S. EEZ.
- Use shallow-set longline gear to target swordfish in the adjacent high seas.
- Use longline gear, receive HMS harvested by longline from another vessel or land/transship HMS harvested by longline gear from April 1 through May 31 in waters bounded on the south by 0° lat., on the north by 15° N. lat., on the east by 145° W. long., and on the west by 180° long.
- Target swordfish east of 150°W longitude without a western Pacific longline permit.

### **Gear Restrictions** ([§ 660.712](#))

Owners and operators of vessels registered to use longline gear may **not**:

- Possess a lightstick or floatline and deploy any float line (a line used to suspend the main longline beneath a float) that is shorter than or equal to 20 meters (65.6 ft or 10.9 fm) west of 150° W longitude and north of the equator.
- Possess more than 10 swordfish from a fishing trip when using any J-type fishing hooks or more than 25 swordfish from a fishing trip when using only circle hook-type fishing hooks if a NMFS-trained observer is on board. If a NMFS-trained observer is on board for the duration of the fishing trip, there is no limit on swordfish retention.
- Have fewer than 15 branch lines set between any 2 floats for a conventional longline or 10 branch lines between any 2 floats for a basket-style longline. The deepest point of the main longline between any 2 floats must be greater than 100 meters (328.1 ft, 54.6 fm) below the sea surface.

The permit holder will be notified by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement's Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the installation requirements for a VMS on the permit holder's vessel. The vessel must carry the VMS unit whenever the vessel is at sea and cannot remove or relocate the VMS unit without prior approval from the SAC. Funds are available to offset installation and operation costs of VMS units. However, charges related to any additional equipment attached to the VMS unit are the responsibility of the owner or operator and not NMFS.

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<sup>17</sup> Frank Orth and Associates (800) 522-7622 or (562) 427-1822.

**Protected species requirements ([§ 660.712](#))**

- Owners and operators must attend a protected species workshop each year. A valid protected species workshop certificate or copy issued by NMFS must be on board the vessel and on file to maintain or renew vessel registration.
- Owners and operators must carry line clippers, dip nets and wire or bolt cutters to disengage any hooked or entangled animals.

**Sea turtles ([§ 660.712](#))**

- All sea turtles brought aboard for dehooking/disentanglement must be handled in a manner that minimizes injury and promotes post-hooking survival.
- Place the turtle on its belly and elevate the hindquarters.
- Perform a reflex test at least every 3 hours to determine if the sea turtle is responsive.
- Keep the turtle shaded and moist by placing a water-soaked towel over the eyes, carapace, and flippers.
- Live turtles must be returned to the sea away from deployed gear and with the vessel engine in neutral gear.

**Seabirds ([§ 660.712](#))**

- When fishing north of 23° N lat., use a line setting machine or line shooter to set the main line when making sets with deep-set longline west of 150° W long.
- Use completely thawed bait that is dyed blue (minimum of 2 cans on board vessel) to an intensity level specified by a color quality control card issued by NMFS.
- Discharge fish, fish parts (offal), or spent bait, with hooks removed on the opposite side of the vessel from the gear when setting or hauling gear.
- If a seabird is hooked or entangled, stop the vessel to reduce line tension and bring the seabird on board using a dip net.
- Cover the seabird with a towel to protect its feathers from oils or damage.
- Remove any entangled lines and hooks from the seabird.
- Cut the fishing line as close as possible to ingested or inaccessible hooks.
- Leave the bird in a safe enclosed space to recover until its feathers are dry then release seabirds by placing them on the sea surface.
- See regulations for additional measures when short-tailed albatross are encountered.